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first and second interlockable fastener tracks joined to said front and said rear panels at said package opening, configurable in an interlocked, closed position and an unlocked open position; a slider movable along said fastener tracks to configure said tracks in said interlocked position so as to close said opening and to configure said fastener tracks in said unlocked position so as to allow access through said opening to said package interior; said fastener tracks having opposed ends located adjacent said opposed sides of said front and said rear panels; stops adjacent said ends of said fastener tracks to interfere with and prevent travel of said slider beyond said fastener tracks; a side seal of pre-selected width joining together one side of said front and said rear panels; a shroud covering a portion of said slider and at least the major portion of said fastener tracks; weakening portions extending adjacent said fastener tracks severably connecting said shroud to said side portions in preparation for removal of said shroud from the remainder of said reclosable flexible package said weakening portions including a line of weakness extending along the substantial entirety of said fastener tracks; and said shroud defining at least one opening for exposing another portion of said slider, said opening having an acute angle portion communicating with said weakening portion.

A2

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) The reclosable flexible package of claim 1 wherein said line of weakness extends across substantially the entire extent of said reclosable flexible package.

A3

Please amend claim 12 as follows:

12.1 (Amended) The reclosable flexible package of claim *11* wherein said shroud further includes a side fin seal above said fastener tracks, in line with the side seal running said front and said rear panels.

[Please amend claim 13 as follows:]

¹⁰
13. (Amended) The reclosable flexible package of claim 1 wherein said shroud is integrally formed with said side portions of said front and said rear panels, comprising monolithic portions of said front and said rear panels, divided by said side portions by said weakening portions.

[Please amend claim 14 as follows:]

14. (Amended) The reclosable flexible package of claim 1 wherein said shroud includes shroud panels separately formed and joined to said front and said rear panels by said weakening portions.

[Please amend claim 16 as follows:]

¹²
16. (Amended) The reclosable flexible package of claim 1 further comprising a peelable seal cooperating with the side portions to prevent communication of said opening with said package interior.

Please add new claim 21 as follows:

21. A reclosable flexible package comprising:
opposed front and rear panels having side portions with edges joined together by a pair of side seals to form an interior and a package opening communicating with said interior;
first and second interlockable fastener tracks extending between the edges of the side portions, joined to said side portions at said package opening, configurable in an interlocked, closed position and an unlocked open position;
said side seals interrupted by said fastener tracks, with said side seals forming gaps for respective ends of said fastener tracks;
a slider movable along said fastener tracks to configure said tracks in said interlocked position so as to close said opening and to configure said fastener tracks in said unlocked position so as to allow access through said opening to said package interior;
stops formed in said ends of said fastener tracks to interfere with and prevent travel of said slider beyond said fastener tracks;
a side seal of pre-selected width joining together one side of said front and said rear panels;